

In the claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A paint roller cleaner comprising:

a cylindrical housing having an opening adapted to receive a paint roller, said opening having associated therewith an outer flange portion for removing paint from said paint roller, and said cylindrical housing being a very close fit around said paint roller for removing further paint therefrom, said removal of paint constituting a first cleaning action on said paint roller;

external locking means for securing said paint roller in said cylindrical housing, said external locking means attaching to a handle of said paint roller, whereby said paint roller is restrained from movement relative to the housing by the locking means; and whereby cleaning fluid is introduced into the housing under pressure to thereby effect a second cleaning action on said paint roller; and

a pressure relief means provided on the housing and including a vent opening that is tightly sealed ~~closed~~ by a plug; wherein said plug is ~~able to be pushed out of the vent opening~~ released by excessive pressure build-up within the housing.

2. (Previously presented) The paint roller cleaner according to claim 1, wherein the locking means includes a hook member designed to lock around and restrain the handle of the paint roller thereby securing the roller with respect to the cleaner for use.

3. (Previously presented) The paint roller cleaner according to claim 1, wherein the locking means is located close to the opening of the housing in which the paint roller is received.
4. (Previously presented) The paint roller cleaner according to claim 1, wherein the locking means is a hook which is upstanding from an outer surface of the housing and generally in line axially therewith, said hook being formed by walls upstanding from the outer surface of the housing and curving around to join one another.
5. (Previously presented) The paint roller cleaner according to claim 1, wherein the locking means is a snap fit locking means.
6. (Previously presented) The paint roller cleaner according to claim 1, wherein said flange portion is positioned perpendicular to the axis of the housing.
7. (Previously presented) The paint roller cleaner according to claim 1, wherein an outer edge of the flange portion has a semi-circular indent serving as a scraper that may be used to remove excess paint held in a roller before the roller is inserted into the housing.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 1, wherein the vent opening has a diameter and the housing plug further includes an ~~oversized~~ end projection that is of a diameter greater than the diameter of the vent opening and that fits over the vent opening thereby securing the plug in position until a pressure build-up within housing causes the plug to be released.
11. (New) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 1, further comprising a tether securing the plug to the housing.
12. (New) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 11, wherein the entire plug is pushed completely out of the vent opening by excessive pressure build-up in the housing, and when said plug is so removed from the vent opening, the tether keeps the plug connected to the housing.
13. (New) A paint roller cleaner comprising:
- a cylindrical housing having a first end, a second end, and a side wall extending therebetween, wherein said housing has a longitudinal axis extending between the first and second ends and said housing defines a longitudinally aligned bore therein;
 - an inlet into the bore defined in the first end of the housing
 - an outlet from the bore defined in the second end of the housing, said outlet being adapted to receive a paint roller therethrough,

a planar flange extending outwardly away from the second end of the housing and generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis thereof; where the flange has a first surface facing the first end of the housing, a second surface opposed thereto, and an outermost edge intermediate the first and second surfaces and spaced a distance outwardly away from the side wall of the housing; and

a locking member extending generally longitudinally outwardly away from the second surface of the flange and beyond the second end of the housing; and a portion of the locking member is disposed at an angle to the longitudinal axis and is separated from the second surface by a gap, and the gap is adapted to receive part of a handle of the paint roller therein.

14. (New) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 13, wherein the outermost edge of the flange includes an indent adapted to engage an exterior circumferential surface of the paint roller.

15. (New) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 14, wherein the indent is arcuate in shape.

16. (New) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 13, wherein the housing further includes:

a vent opening defined in the side wall proximate the inlet, wherein the vent opening is in fluid communication with the bore;

a reusable plug sized to tightly seal the vent opening against fluid loss from the bore during normal operation of the roller cleaner; and wherein the plug is pushed out of the vent opening only by excessive pressure build-up within the bore;

a tether connected at a first end to the plug and at a second end to the housing.

17. (New) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 16, wherein the first end of the housing narrows to a spigot which defines the inlet therein; and wherein the second end of the tether is received around a circumferential wall of the spigot.
18. (New) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 16, wherein the plug has an interior end, an exterior end and sidewall extending therebetween; and wherein the interior end is of a first thickness and the side wall is of a second thickness and the first thickness is greater than the second thickness.
19. (New) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 18, wherein the interior end of the plug is of a first diameter and the vent opening is of a second diameter, and the first diameter is greater than the second diameter.
20. (New) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 18, wherein the plug further includes an annular flange at its exterior end and the annular flange sealingly abuts an exterior surface of the side wall of the housing that circumscribes the vent opening.

21. (New) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 13, wherein the locking member is substantially arcuate in shape, and the gap between the locking member and the second surface of the flange is substantially arcuate in shape.
22. (New) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 21, wherein a portion of the locking member first wall extends inwardly from the first surface of the flange, along the side wall of the housing and toward the first end thereof.
23. (New) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 19, wherein the locking member comprises a first and second wall extending outwardly away from the second surface of the flange and spaced a distance apart from each other; wherein the first and second wall taper toward each other and intersect at a tip; and wherein the gap between the locking member and the second surface of the flange is defined between the first wall of the locking member and the second surface of the flange.
24. (New) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 23, wherein a portion of each of the first and second walls of the locking member extend inwardly away from the first surface of the flange and toward the first end of the housing; and the portion of the first wall is spaced a distance away from the portion of the second wall; and the distance between the portions of the first and second wall is substantially constant and the portions of the first and second walls are substantially parallel to each other.